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C O N F I D E N T I A L LJUBLJANA 000126

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR EUR/NCE AND EUR/RPM

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TAGS: [PREL](#) [MARR](#) [SI](#) [NATO](#)

SUBJECT: SLOVENIA: MFA SHEDS LIGHT ON ISAF AND NTM-I

CONTRIBUTION PLANS

REF: A. LJUBLJANA 0011

[¶B.](#) LJUBLJANA 0092

[¶C.](#) IIR 6 952 0013 05

[¶D.](#) IIR 6 952 0014 05

Classified By: Deputy Chief of Mission Dean J. Haas for reasons 1.4(b) and (d).

[¶11.](#) (C) SUMMARY: During an unrelated demarche on 22 February, DCM and Pol-Miloff pressed MFA Security Policy Department Head Borut Mahnic for more information about Slovenian decisions to send officers to an ISAF Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) and military trainers to a third country under NTM-I. On the PRTs, Mahnic said MFA and MOD decision-makers have not yet finalized a proposal for the Cabinet to decide whether to partner with the Germans or Italians. Regarding military trainers for NTM-I, Mahnic said Slovenia has offered five trainers and is waiting to hear where they are needed. END SUMMARY

PRT OFFICERS FOR ISAF: UNDECIDED WHETHER TO JOIN WITH GERMANS OR ITALIANS

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[¶12.](#) (C) Despite recent statements by MOD officials and Slovenian Armed Forces (SAF) contacts indicating that Slovenia plans to send two SAF officers to join a German-led PRT later this year (refs A, B and D), Mahnic said the GoS has not yet taken an official decision on PRT involvement. In fact, Mahnic said that a debate continues among MFA and MOD decision-makers about whether to send two officers to a German-led or an Italian-led PRT. While MOD officials have pointed to the German option as a foregone conclusion, Mahnic said that certain stakeholders would prefer to see SAF officers deployed with one of the new Italian-led PRTs in western Afghanistan. In an informal conversation on 07 February, DefMin Karl Erjavec told COM that Slovenia would likely send two officers to a German-led PRT this year and additional officers to an Italian-led PRT in the future (ref B). Mahnic, whose staff is preparing the draft proposal on PRTs for the Cabinet, said the decision would be to join either the Germans or the Italians, but not both. MFA and MOD will meet during the week of 28 February to discuss the proposal further, according to Mahnic. As reported ref D, the SAF General Staff currently expects to deploy two officers to a PRT in July 2005 but they have not yet started any PRT training or certification procedures. Slovenia currently has 29 troops deployed to ISAF, including a reconnaissance unit, two veterinarians, and four firefighters to protect Kabul Airport.

NTM-I: FIVE SLOVENIAN TRAINERS WITH NO PLACE TO GO

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[¶13.](#) (C) Mahnic said a destination has not yet been decided upon for the five military trainers offered by Slovenia to work through NTM-I in a third country. While the SAF has reportedly identified as many as nine trainers for the mission (ref C), Mahnic said the location of the mission continues to remain an open question. Mahnic said the GoS considers Jordan a "realistic possibility" based on an understanding that Jordan had offered to host a mission. He said "any other place" (meaning any other "third country") is also a possibility and suggested that the Slovenes have put their offer on the table at NATO and are simply waiting to be told where they are needed. On 22 February, PM Janez Jansa commented to TV Slovenija that his Government would consider sending military trainers to work inside Iraq if conditions become safe. Jansa stressed to the reporter that training Iraqi Security Forces is a "UN-compatible activity" with unanimous backing within NATO. Slovenia currently has five police trainers from the Ministry of Interior posted to Jordan to work with the Iraqi police. The GoS has pledged EUR 100,000 for the NTM-I Trust Fund and is making arrangements to send EUR 5.2 million worth of light arms and other equipment to the Iraqi Security Forces (ref B).

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